

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

a processor that executes the following computer executable components stored on a computer readable medium:

a message receiving component that receives ~~a at least one~~ message for delivery to a user;

a filtering component that identifies offensive portions ~~whether content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message, the message comprising one or more of ~~comprises~~ text, ~~one or more~~ images, ~~one or more~~ sounds, ~~one or more~~ videos, ~~one or more~~ URLs, embedded content, ~~one or more~~ attachments, or ~~one or more~~ applets ~~offensive to the user~~; and

a content blocking component that ~~partially~~ blocks the offensive portions ~~content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message by preventing the offensive portions thereof from being viewed or sensed from at least a preview pane that displays the ~~at least one~~ message, and fully displays non-offensive portions of the message.

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the computer executable components further comprise ~~comprising~~:

~~calculating~~ a junk score calculation for the ~~at least one~~ message; and

a classification component that classifies the ~~at least one~~ message as any one of a good state, a junk state, and a middle state based in part on the junk score; wherein the middle state indicates that the ~~at least one~~ message is determined to be safe for an inbox, but not safe for viewing or previewing in at least the preview pane without ~~partial~~ blocking ~~the offensive portions of content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message.

3. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, wherein the ~~at least one~~ message is classified at least in the middle state when the junk score exceeds at least the first threshold.

4. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 2, further comprising an analysis component that determines whether the junk score exceeds a first threshold.

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising an unblocking component that receives user input to unblock the ~~offensive portions partially blocked content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message in at least the preview pane.

6. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 5, wherein the unblocking component operates per message.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component operates per message or globally for substantially all messages.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 4, wherein the first threshold is determined in part by user preferences.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component partially blocks the offensive portions content of the at least one message by utilizing by performing at least one of the following:

~~hiding the content blocked offensive portions of the at least one message in at least the preview pane;~~

~~hiding a portion of a blocked portion of a subject line of the at least one message;~~

~~hiding a portion of content in a blocked portion of a from line of the at least one message;~~

~~blurring a blurred portion of the subject line of the at least one message;~~

~~blurring a blurred portion of content in the from line of the at least one message; or~~

~~blurring a blurred portion of the content of the at least one message in at least the preview pane.~~

11. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, wherein the content blocking component replaces blocked offensive portions content of the at least one message with at least one of a text notice, a graphics notice, a video notice, or an audio notice; and wherein the text notice, the graphics notice, the video notice, and the audio notice warn users that potentially offensive content has been blocked from view.

12. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 2, further comprising a challenge-response component, the challenge-response component comprising:

a challenge activation component, triggered when the junk score of the message exceeds a second threshold;

a challenge message sent to a sender of the message;

a challenge puzzle or question completed by the sender of the message;

and

a response receiving component for validation of the sender's response to the challenge puzzle or question and transfer of the message to the user's inbox upon validation, that requests message senders to correctly respond to at least one challenge per message sent by a respective message sender when the junk score of the message sent by the respective message sender exceeds a second threshold, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is delivered to the user's inbox upon validation of the message sender's response.

13. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is higher or lower than the first threshold.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the second threshold is determined at least in part by user preferences.

16. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the message sent by the respective message sender is hidden from view in the user's inbox until the at least one challenge is correctly solved.

17. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 12, wherein the offensive portions ~~content~~ of the message sent by the respective message sender are ~~is~~ partially blocked when the message is released to the user's inbox following a correctly solved challenge.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, further comprising a rating component that rates messages as unscanned before the messages ~~they~~ are subjected to the filtering component.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein an unscanned message is hidden from view and is not visible in the user's inbox while additional data about the unscanned message is collected or while the unscanned message is being filtered by the filtering component.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein unscanned messages are made visible in a user's inbox when the filtering component is turned off.

21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) A method that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

~~employing a processor to execute executing computer executable instructions stored on a computer readable medium of a processor, the computer executable instructions comprising to perform the following acts:~~

receiving a ~~at least one~~ message into a memory of the processor;
computing a junk score for the ~~at least one~~ message;
determining offensive portions and non-offensive portions ~~whether content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message, wherein the message comprises one or more ~~of includes~~ text, ~~one or more~~ images, ~~one or more~~ sounds, ~~one or more~~ videos, ~~one or more~~ URLs, embedded content, ~~one or more~~ attachments or ~~one or more~~ applets ~~offensive to the user~~; and
enabling [[the]] a user to preview the non-offensive portions of the at least one message in at least a preview pane while blocking the offensive portions of the message from preventing the user from sensing the content of the at least one message determined to be offensive to the user when the junk score exceeds a threshold.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising classifying the ~~at least one~~ message as unscanned before computing the junk score.

25. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 24, further comprising updating the ~~at least one~~ message from unscanned to some other rating based on, at least in part, its computed junk score.

26. (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising unblocking the ~~partially~~ blocked offensive portions ~~content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message when explicit user input to unblock the ~~partially~~ blocked offensive portions ~~message content~~ is received.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising requiring entry of a password to open messages associated with blocked offensive portions ~~content~~.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 22, further comprising challenging a sender of the ~~at least one~~ message before revealing any blocked offensive portions ~~content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message, wherein challenges are sent to the sender at a rate determined by a frequency or number of messages sent to the user.

31-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently Amended) A system that mitigates viewing offensive message content, comprising:

means for receiving ~~a~~ ~~at least one~~ message;

means for computing a junk score for the ~~at least one~~ message;

means for determining offensive portions and non-offensive portions ~~whether content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message, the message comprising one or more ~~of includes~~ text, ~~one or more~~ images, ~~one or more~~ sounds, ~~one or more~~ videos,

~~one or more URLs, embedded content, one or more attachments, or one or more applets associated with information deemed offensive to a user;~~ and

means for partially blocking the offensive portions ~~content~~ of the ~~at least one~~ message associated with information deemed offensive to the user from being presented to the user, and displaying the non-offensive portions when the ~~at least one~~ message is displayed in at least a preview pane, based on the junk score;

wherein instructions associated with one or more of the above means are executed by a processor operatively coupled to memory.

35-44. (Canceled)